



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture

Date: February 3, 2022

Time: 7:00-8:30PM

Location: Zoom

Attending: Steve Poltorzycki, Cristin Canterbury Bagnall, Nick Castellano, Stewart Ikeda, Beth Locke, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Sarah Morgan-Wu, Andrea Nicolay, Tom Davison, Lidia Kenig-Scher, Christine Noah, Steve Poltozycki

Absent: Tom Formicola

Guests: Cecily Miller

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

BREAKING NEWS: ALI CARTER GAVE BIRTH TO LITTLE GEORGE THIS MORNING!!!

1) ROLL CALL AND RULES OF REMOTE MEETINGS CONDUCTED DURING COVID-19

2) APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

- Approved unanimously as amended by all who attended the last meeting.

3) PUBLIC ART UPDATES

- Chanel Thervil has done some photo shoots of people participating in her residency project. She'll be on break until the end of the month.
- Youth banners were shared in a community engagement event.
- Arlington Community Ed is interested in collaborating on the Chanel project for their Spring Catalog, promoting Artist Talk. They don't usually offer free programs though, so they may be just offering to put the video workshop on their site for free.

4) CULTURAL DISTRICT UPDATE

- Redesignation year for the Arlington Cultural District.
- Looking back at Foundation Documents and reassessing the management. When the Managing Partnership applied for the district designation, the MCC wanted to see an entity to represent lots of groups with town representation and a way to receive money, and to be able to welcome new managing partners. The MP agreement we created predated the ACAC. If ACAC had been around, ACAC would have been the natural applicant. The agreement needs to be between ACAC and the Town. It is part of ACAC's budget. Members at large will be organizations and businesses that exist within the district or have events within the district. That allows ACAC to treat Members at Large as potential partners for all activities happening in the District. ACD should be the ground level for any business or entities that want to be part of ACAC activities.
- There is a Select Board resolution for redesignation. We need to engage the Managing Partners in addition to the Core Managing Partners.
- New language is being drafted around the Managing partnership to formalize it as a committee under ACAC (as it has already been operating).
- The audio tour has launched and that presents a way of engaging the Managing Partners again.

- We need to try out the beta version of the tour and give feedback before the launch.

4) WEBSITE

- Postponed until we can go through updates with Terry. Terry and her wife has been doing an audit and have recommendations to present regarding a New host, better CMS.
- We need to review the sections of the site that pertain to our tasks, then collect items for your wish list, and we will put it together and budget.

5) JAN 31st VOLUNTEER MEETING DEBRIEF

- Monday's meeting was attended by over 40 people, over 60 expressed interest. Suggestion to create a short video from the slides presented to live on our website. Lots of enthusiasm. People in town are great assets when you give them an opportunity. There is a google spreadsheet that captured demographics.
- Laurie will send an email thanking everyone and giving people a survey about the opportunities. The poll is would you like to learn more about....?
- Cristin and Laurie will also send out the video
- We will have a google signup list for people who want to help out for events
- Some people even volunteered to be volunteer coordinators
- People who are new, ages 20 -70, parents, enormous variety of favorite activities, most frequent comment, "Yay, things happening in the Heights," Or "I was walking down the street and it appeared." People commented about things for all time frames.
- How they heard - town newsletter, PTO, instagram, every different communication channel we used.
- It was key that we started promoting early through our newsletter in mid december, it ran in the advocate in early January, plus tools to send out promotion and people all doing their part. It was finally picked up by PTO's later in the month so with this spread people were hearing about it 3 or 4 times, which made the reach and response very powerful.
- Aeronaut does not have the capacity to do a beer garden this summer in the Center this summer but are hopeful for 2023.
- The guy who did the September beer garden at Jason Russell house is looking for permanent space in Arlington but is also planning to return to the Jason Russell House lawn this September.
- Ali said there are no other projects the Town is doing with the State that could be put toward the Arts. The State has put a lot of money into Tourism and has suggested the Cultural Facilities Fund.
- Are there town events that could use funds toward an art component?
- The Shared Spaces program is the only possibility that could cover public art. They covered the parklet work. Ali wants businesses to take those on going forward. There are placemaking projects that get \$50,000 or less, such as a public art project with a traffic calming project or transportation related. They offer this grant three or four times a year.
<https://www.mass.gov/shared-streets-and-spaces-grant-program>
- Is there money from activating park use that could be put toward the arts? Ali says that is going to be a long play. That would take a warrant article, or showing up to a park and rec meeting. The best approach would be to come up with a program in collaboration with the park and rec commission.
- Are there any regulations that might be suspended that could limit busking? Ali says there are no limitations for outdoor gatherings.
- There have been over 100 applications for the ARPA funding. That will be spent in no time. Artists and art non-profits have all applied.
- What is the prognosis on COVID restrictions? Ali has not been involved in those conversations this time around. Boston announced their vaccine mandates for restaurants and gyms. Some businesses in Arlington already have those mandates and are interested. The other kinds of restrictions generally come from the State.

5) NEW BUSINESS

- Please like Lelands new Regent Theater social media accounts.

<https://twitter.com/RegentTheatreMA>

<https://www.instagram.com/regenttheatrearlington>

<https://www.facebook.com/regenttheatrearlington/>

- Artist Market at Roasted Granola poll was a huge success. The poll came back and there were very few complaints. Everyone sold something. Every painter sold a painting. One person made \$800 in 5 hours. The Roasted Granola and the participants would love to see this happen again.
- The Plein Air painting idea is being revived.

Meeting adjourned 8:51 pm

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Marlin-Curiel

Next meeting: March 3, 7pm